

July 28, 2008

Pesticide Advisory Committee

Minutes

At 9:30 Gordy Hankins called the Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting to order.

CDPHE's new PAC representative, Aaron V. Doussett, was introduced and his official appointment to the PAC was passed by the Agricultural Commission on August 12, 2008.

Laura Quakenbush gave a Pesticide Registration update regarding CDA's EPA residue removal requirements that were submitted to EPA in the spring. CDA received a response from EPA stating all but one requirement had been met and requested a commitment as to when authority to perform producer establishment inspections could be obtained. CDA is working with a workgroup Gordy Hankins is chairing to discuss to begin moving towards legislation in 2010 – 2011. Laura and Gordy also updated the PAC on outreach and education that has been done regarding an increased use of Reglone in the San Luis Valley due to a shortage of sulfuric acid this year.

Mitchell Yergert, CDA Division Director, gave an update on the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Sheldon Jones' contract was not continued as Deputy Commissioner and his last day was June 30. Currently, CDA has not refilled the Deputy Commissioner position. An overview of CDA's budget, cash funded programs and general funded, and a short discussion that there may be a bill proposed to consolidate all funds within CDA. This will increase CDA's ability to reserve and roll over up to 50% vs. the 16% (labor limitation) in its cash fund reserve annually and allow CDA the flexibility to move spending authority around within CDA. Eric Jesson commented that CDA needs to make sure there are good checks and balances in place since this is industry money.

Laura Pottorff, CDA Pesticide Applicator Coordinator, gave an update on CDA's upgraded examination software, LXR, and its full implementation internally. CDA has signed a contract with Metro Institutes to develop and deploy an on-line private applicator examination. This should be up and running by the end of 2008. Private applicators will have the ability to pay for their license on-line soon, our web developers with Colorado.gov are working on making that happen soon and CDA now has the ability to accept credit cards internally to take exams and purchase licenses (both individual and business). CDA is a part of School IPM workgroup that has been formed by CSU. A pilot project is currently being mapped out and implemented with the Boulder County school district, representatives from CSU Extension, pest control operators, Colorado Department of Education, and other interested parties. CSU and CDA are currently finishing up the Outdoor Vertebrate Pest Control Guide and a regional aquatic guide is being focused on in the coming year. CDA is also looking at splitting the laws and regulation portion of the qualified supervisor examination out into a separate exam in FY 09.

Steve Blunt, CDA Enforcement Specialist, gave an update on CDA's Mountain Pine Beetle outreach/enforcement efforts. CDA did find a few unlicensed applicators but the majority of applicators were licensed and field inspections showed no misapplications. CDA worked with the USFS, city managers, and CSU to provide brochures and lists of licensed applicators. CDA also ran newspaper ads to inform the general public to hire licensed applicators and where they can call to file a formal complaint if there is a misapplication incident. Steve also gave an update on the strychnine case the CDA investigated.

Rob Wawrzynski, CDA Groundwater Program Manager, updated the PAC on a new agreement with CDPHE to obtain surface water samples for CDA. EPA, as a part of CDA's pesticide grant requirements, has asked CDA to begin reporting on the management of "pesticides of interest" in its groundwater program. A part of that is also to begin tracking surface water results as well.

CDPHE has the authority to take surface water samples, through a verbal agreement CDPHE has agreed to provide split samples and CDA, EPA and CDPHE's laboratories will cooperatively perform the analysis and provide reports to CDA and EPA.

John Scott, CDA Pesticides Program Manager, discussed the upcoming Rule changes in the Pesticide Applicators' Act and Pesticide Act. A quick review was done on last minute changes, based on the PAC comments received in April. The timeline was:

- Published w/SOS - July 10, 2008 (interested parties notified)
- Rules hearing - July 31, 2008, 9 am (No testimony against the proposed Rules was presented)
- Agricultural Commission Meeting – August 12, 2008 (The Rules were approved by the Ag. Commissioner)
- Effective – October 1, 2008 (Currently in print)

General discussion:

CDA is considering entering into an agreement to perform the USDA recordkeeping inspections, dependent on funding.

Eric Jesson gave an update on Paonia and recent changes to the city council members and resulting mosquito abatement program.

The Pesticide Applicator Licensing and Certification System (PALCS) is operational now and the CDA applicator program is no longer run in DOS.